

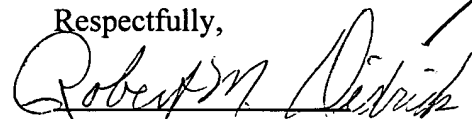
The rejection of claims 1-3 and 5-9 under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by the teachings of Kornbaum is deemed to be obviated by the foregoing amendments. The rejection of those claims under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kornbaum is also deemed obviated by said amendments for the following reasons. Kornbaum speculates that zinc halides of many kinds, even organo-zinc halides, would operate at low concentrations as heat stabilizers for vinyl halide polymers but every working example of Kornbaum includes an epoxy compound. As taught by Bae *et al*, zinc chloride catalyzes the thermodegradation of polyvinyl chloride but in small quantities it can enhance the stabilizing effect of other stabilizers including epoxidized soy bean oil and alkylaryl phosphites. The reference refers at column 4, lines 21-35 to the postulation of Deanin, Gupta, and Modi (copy enclosed) that epoxy groups stabilize the polyvinyl chain and that zinc chloride catalyzes the formation of such epoxy groups. Amounts of zinc chloride beyond the catalytic amount do cause the thermodegradation but it can be controlled by adding more epoxy. Bae *et al* also refers at column 4, lines 36-41 to the teaching of Jirkal and Stepek that the degradative effect of zinc chloride disappears in the presence of epoxidized soy bean oil or triphenyl phosphite.

The applicants have found that zinc chloride is effective in the amounts claimed herein as a heat stabilizer for halogen-containing polymers in the absence of epoxidized soy bean oil or phosphites.

The rejections of claims 1-9 under 35 USC 102(b) and 103(a) as being anticipated by or obvious over the teachings of Bae *et al* are deemed to be obviated for the reasons given above and because the complex of an organic triphosphite with zinc chloride taught by Bae *et al* does not anticipate nor suggest the stabilization of a halogen-containing polymer by zinc chloride alone.

For all of the foregoing reasons, a withdrawal of the rejections is courteously solicited.

Respectfully,



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